

House Bill 1418

By: Representatives Mangham of the 94<sup>th</sup> and Collins of the 95<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to require students to complete 40 hours of service learning for high school graduation; to provide for contracts with nonprofit organizations and other entities; to provide for weighted credit for certain hours; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for applicability; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"20-2-149.1.

(a) In addition to any other requirements for graduation from high school, each student shall complete 40 hours of service learning. Such service learning shall be through volunteer opportunities provided through nonprofit entities or other entities approved by the local board of education in accordance with State Board of Education requirements. The purpose of such service learning requirements shall be to build character and enable students to apply classroom lessons to real world settings and to improve the community through service. Such hours shall be completed outside of the normal school day. A local board of education may require additional hours above the requirements contained in this subsection.

(b) The State Board of Education shall be authorized to enter into contracts with nonprofit organizations which provide civic engagement and service-learning opportunities to assist students in meeting the requirements of this Code section. Private donations, grant funds,

26 or other nonstate funds available to the state board may be used to assist in the  
27 implementation of this Code section.  
28 (c) Service learning volunteerism in the areas of (1) health, (2) environment, (3)  
29 overcoming poverty, and (4) education and literacy shall be credited at 1.25 hours for each  
30 hour completed.  
31 (d) The State Board of Education shall establish rules and regulations governing the  
32 requirements contained in this Code section.  
33 (e) This Code section shall apply beginning with all students entering ninth grade on and  
34 after July 1, 2010."

35 **SECTION 2.**

36 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.